

REMARKS

Claims 7, 10, 13 and 17 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-6, 8-9 and 11-12 were previously cancelled and remain cancelled.

In the Office Action of December 16, 2008, claims 7, 10, 13 and 17 were rejected.

With this amendment, no claims are amended.

I. 35 U.S.C. § 103 Obviousness Rejection of Claims

Claims 7, 10, 13 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Narang et al.* (US 6,168,885) in view of *Schneider et al.* (US 6,180,281) in view of *Gozdz et al.* (US 5,840,087) in view of *Kumeuchi et al.* (US 6,156,080) in view of *Takamiya et al.* (US 6,150,455) in view of *Ichino et al.* (US 5,858,264). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

In relevant part, each of the independent claims 1 and 17 recites the step of subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment after inserting the wound electrodes into a film pack, so that each of the first set of gel-electrode layers and the one of the second set of gel-electrolyte layers facing each other are integrated with each other into one continuous seamless layer.

This is clearly unlike *Narang* which fails to disclose or even fairly suggest the step of subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment after inserting the wound electrodes into a film pack, so that each of the first set of gel-electrode layers and the one of the second set of gel-electrolyte layers facing each other are integrated into one continuous seamless layer. Instead, *Narang* discloses a laminating step where the anode, cathode and two electrodes are laminated together. See, U.S. Pat. No. 6,168,885, Col. 11, l. 4-11.

Kumeuchi discloses heating a wound electrode sheet to prepare the wound electrode for forming in a mold. See, US 6,156,080, Col. 6, l. 44-65. Further, the heating disclosed in *Kumeuchi* is performed to prepare the electrode sheet for molding and not to integrate electrolyte layers together, therefore, the combination of *Kumeuchi* with *Narang*, *Schneider*, *Takamiya*, or *Ichino* would not produce the Applicant's claimed battery.

Schneider, *Takamiya*, and *Ichino* all fail to disclose or even fairly suggest anything relating to heat treating wound electrodes, much less to a first set of gel-electrode layers and one of a second set of gel-electrolyte layers facing each other being integrated into one continuous seamless layer. *Schneider* discloses a lamination process which heats positive and negative electrode members before sending the members through a press. See, US 6,180,281, Col. 5, l. 45-62. *Takamiya* discloses subjecting a thermostable polymer to a temperature of 80 degree C for 2 days to see if the polymer retains its shape. See, US 6,150,455, Col. 9, l. 60 - Col. 10, l. 8. *Ichino* is directed to the manufacture of a composite polymer electrolyte membrane. See, US 5,858,264, Abstract.

As the Applicant's specification discloses, by performing the step of subjecting a wound electrode to heat treatment after inserting the wound electrodes into a film pack, so that each of the first set of gel-electrode layers and the one of the second set of gel-electrolyte layers facing each other are integrated into one continuous seamless layer, enabled the doping of lithium into the negative electrode resulting in a high energy density and large discharge capacity. See, Specification, Page 21, l. 6-10.

Therefore, because *Kumeuchi*, *Narang*, *Schneider*, *Takamiya*, *Ichino* and any combination of them fail to disclose or even fairly suggest each feature of claims 1 and 17, the

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rejection of claims 1 and 17 cannot stand. Because claims 10 and 13 depend, either directly or indirectly from claim 1, they are allowable for at least the same reason.

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II. Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that all claims are clearly allowable over the cited prior art, and respectfully requests early and favorable notification to that effect.

Respectfully submitted,

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